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Date: 6/1/2005 4:07:01 PM
Subject: Testing of Barrier for ROM Beltline

This letter is to inform you of a testing process looking at a barrier design that will better contain coal/rock fines when cleaning the ROM beltline. Currently the process entails using a front-end loader, equipped with a special scoop bucket device, to scoop up roller piles beneath the ROM beltline. Roller piles are caused by coal spilling off belt at the roller hardware. The piles are cleaned routinely. Over time of cleaning beneath the belt, a hole has been dug which does not allow proper drainage of runoff/washdown water. Also, on occasion, coal/rock fines are pushed through the existing berm over the outslope causing a tremendous amount of work for our surface employees to clean up and fix.

We have come up with a possible solution with the use of pre-cast concrete barriers. The barriers are designed to allow spills to be cleaned up easily without digging holes and eliminating push over of fines. They can be put in place by sliding under the belt using a front-end loader. We currently have constructed and installed 8 sections to cover a portion of the beltline. If they work, we intend to submit an amendment to update the facilities map and bond prior to installing additional sections.

Please call or e-mail me with questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Dennis Oakley
Senior Environmental Engineer

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The smallest good deed is better than the grandest good intention.

- Duguet -

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